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## USAID HIGHLIGHTS

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### U.S.-Developed Health Assessment Tool to be Adopted throughout Cambodia

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

December 19, 2008



*At least three government health officials from each provincial and district level nationwide participated in the assessment tool conference in Phnom Penh on December 19, 2008.*

On December 19, more than 100 government health practitioners, physicians and hospital administrators from the provincial and district level joined a training conference on the PHD-OD (Provincial Health Department-Operational District) assessment tool. The U.S.-developed assessment tool, which is designed to measure the progress of the Ministry of Health's efforts to strengthen Cambodia's health system, will be implemented across the country this year.

The United States, through USAID, has supported the Ministry of Health's efforts to strengthen the Cambodian health system since 1994. Through the Health Equity Funds program, the United States' implementing partners have worked closely with the Ministry of Health on several elements of health systems improvement, including the development of the assessment tool. This tool is used to measure the strengths and weaknesses of efforts to improve the health system, and to help provincial health departments and national managers target improvements in specific skills. Recently, the Ministry of Health adopted the assessment tool for nationwide use under the new Health Strategic Plan.

Over 1.3 million Cambodians in need have received free health services through the U.S.-supported Health Equity Funds program. The United States is beginning a new five-year program to support the Ministry of Health efforts to expand the Health Equity Funds program.